

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, January 13. 1708

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**I**N a late *Review* I entred into a calm Defence of King *William*, against a Reflection rais'd upon his Memory by the *Observer*, *Viz.* That his Majesty did not care to be advised by any Body in Matters of War or Government, and that Major *William* and Duke *Schomberg* having advised the King to prosecute the War against *France* chiefly by Sea, his Majesty sh'd neither of them the better for it, both which, I think, I prov'd to be not only unkind, but notoriously false and slanderous.

In Defence of the Memory of that Glorious Prince, I objected against it as unjust and unkind, and contrary to a Promise the Author made at his first Appearance in the World, (*viz.*) not to make *Personal Reflections*; I think, I treated him civilly, and like a Gentleman, as I desire to do all

Mankind; I gave him not one ill Word, but told him, I was sorry he should begin his Breach by falling upon the Memory of King *William*, who had deserv'd so well of Protestants in general, and of this Nation in particular.

How in Return to this Civility, he has treated me with scurrilous Language, but said nothing to the Charge, his Paper of Wednesday last makes clear, to which as far as concerns my self, I shall say nothing, for *Billinggate* Language deserves no Answer; but I hope, the World will remark, that the Reflection upon his Majesty is not at all prov'd, and consequently own'd to be a Forgery——And this, I hope, will pass for good Grammar, tho' the Learned Author says, I understand no Part of Speech; That he that publishes a scandalous Suggestion upon

upon any Man, which he cannot prove, is a Slanderer.

For his Reflections on me I despise them; the Question is not whether I understand Grammar, but whether he has abus'd King William or no, and 'tis a very pretty way of answering the Fact to give me ill Language? I desire always to drive my Opposers to the necessity of Railing instead of Answering; let him acknowledge the Abuse to the Memory of the Nations Deliverer, and he shall vent his Rage at me at his pleasure, but I must be excus'd defending the late King William from all his ungenerous Accusers, and shall count it my Honour to be ill us'd by such as affront his Memory.

However, because he affirms I understand no Part of Speech, I shall leave talking Grammar with him, *which I may have Pride enough to believe, I understand as well as himself*, and turn him to the Scripture which I hope he will allow to be Sense, and close the Case with a short Proposition, the Conclusion of which is in the Text; *let him wear it that thinks he fits it.*

He that says King William did not care to be advis'd in Matters of War or Government, and that he liked Duke Schombergh, or Major Wildman, or any body else the worse for advising him, and at the same time CANNOT PROVE IT—Well, what of him? Nothing but ———

1 John 2. 4. Verse, the last Words of the Verse.

In some of this Authors Papers since that, he is pleas'd to tell the World, he has a great Veneration for the Memory of King William.

This I confess would bear a long Answer, but I shall make it very short.

If this Gentleman was employ'd or intrusted by King William, and that as he says, he knew his Affairs better than Mr. Review, he tells the World this in a very ill time, when it serves but to aggravate the Ingratitude of his usage of him; that Glorious Monarch had too many such Servants, that eat his Bread, and were trusted by him, and have since shewn in his Face, betray'd him then, and abus'd him since; that Reproach the Memory of their Bene-

factor, and reward him Evil for Good; and I am sorry one that pretends to defend the same Cause, should own himself to be one of that number.

As to his comparing himself to the Review, the Review does not say he was ever so honour'd as Mr. Observer, in the Favour or Service of the late King; but this he says, he knows that His Majesty was a good Master, and if the Observer has had the Honour to be one of his Servants, it is so much the more Barbarous for him to fall upon his Masters Memory, with such a Scurrilous and Scandalous Reproach; and therefore I would advise him to say no more of it, unless he will make an Acknowledgement; for if he cannot prove, that His Majesty did reject Advice, or cared not to be advis'd, *Ec. Mutari Mutandū* as it lies in his Paper, it must pass as a most base and abominable Slander upon King William's Memory; and to say he had the Honour of being known to, trusted by, or employ'd in the Service of the King, does but add to the Crime, and aggravate the Circumstances by Monstrous Ingratitude.

Railing at the Review will never answer this, nor ill Language clear it to the World; to say the Review does not understand Sense or a Part of Speech, is to say nothing, only to acknowledge he cannot come off from the Charge, and has too much Pride to confess it—If he had been a Servant to his Majesty, he must have had more Manners, if he had been trusted by him, he ought to have had more Respect; a little Gratitude would have prompted him to have forbore raising a Slander upon the Memory of his Majesty, a Name all good Men reverence, and a Person on whose Merit and Labour is built, and her Majesty is finishing the most Glorious Constitution, and most Flourishing Nation in the World.

And now this Gentleman, if he has Temper enough left to look about him, may see whose Work he is doing, and who are his Confederates; Blessed Allies indeed he has, Observer and Rebeasal join'd in one! Your Predecessor, Sir, in the Observer would never have done this; indeed, Roger, your old Master would never have join'd with the Rebeasal: But let a mistaken Whig but

fall upon the Memory of King *William*, he is sure to have all the *Jacobite*, and *Non-Jurant* Champions on his side.

And yet the *Reb—sal* shows the most Manners of the Two, for telling us of a new Prince of *Orange* born to the King of *Prussia*, he wishes he may be a better than the last—Now, tho' this is an oblique Way of casting Dirt in the Face of the King, yet I must own, here is not a Bill of Indictment brought against his Majesty, as in the *Observer*; he knew, he could not throw his Filth at him, but it would fly back upon himself, and that the whole Nation was so convinc'd of the Personal Vertues and just Character of that Prince, that it would be spitting against the Wind—But an ungrateful Friend is always forwarder to wound than an open Enemy.

But to speak a Word to the *Rebearsers* on this Point, for I shall never suffer the Name of King *William* to bear any Reproach, that can wipe off, because I am very sure, nothing but Malice and Envy can pretend to it.

A better Prince than the King! What does he mean by a better? Indeed I ought not, nor shall I be so unjust as to conclude his Meaning for him: But this I may conclude,  
1. He cannot mean a better, in the Sense of the Publick, because in the Sense of his Cause, it would not be to the Advantage of the *Jacobite High-Flying* Interest to have an Heir to a Prince, who is a declar'd Friend to the Revolution, and a firm Ally to the QUEEN, prove a Hero, a Defender of Liberty, a publick Deliverer, and a Champion of the Protestant Religion in *Europe*—  
2. He cannot mean a better in Respect to Personal Vertues, because he does not neither can he pretend to charge the Memory of his Majesty, with any Personal Crime, any Vice or Immorality.

It is true, that by wishing him a better Prince, he would obliquely cast some Reflection on the Memory of the King; and pray let us examine this a little, as to the Character of the King.

1. As a Man. 2. As a Prince.

1. As a Man, his Personal Vertue stands unattainted, in spite of all the Wicked Attempts of Dethron'd Papists, Depos'd Non-Jurant Jacobite Parsons, Disaffected En-

vious and Displac'd Courtiers; in spite of false Friends, Treacherous Servants, Ungrateful Subjects, uneatie Tories, unthankful Whigs, and unmannerly Pamphleteers. His Piety has the Testimony of his most secret Closet Witnesses, and I need go no further than the Noble Authority, of that most Learned and Reverend Prelate, the present Bishop of *Ely*, who has to his own Honour, and the Confusion of all the Enemies of His Majesty's Character, given an ample and Honourable Testimony to the World, from his own Knowledge, of the Vertue, Piety, and most constant Devotion of the King; we have indeed many more living Witnesses, and the general Conversation of His Majesty, not as a Prince only, but as a Man, is well known, that no Man can be ashamed to vindicate him, or want Witnesses to Confirm his Assertions; but I think I need go no farther in this Case, all the Attempts to blacken his Reputation have hitherto been Clouds without Rain, wicked and fruitless, and have dy'd in their own Stink and so they will ever do; be they *Observers*, *Rebearsers*, or who they please, for Time and Truth always out-lives Calumny and Slander.

2. Consider His Majesty next as a King, and he must be a very good Prince indeed that excels Him; and this, whether you respect his Moderation in Governing, or his Policy in Managing; His Prudence in Council, His Knowledge in Judging, his Wisdom in Determining, or His Bravery in Executing, and his whole History is so full in every Man's Memory, that Books are needless to quote for the Proof of it.

But shall we guess a little what these People mean by a better Prince of *Orange* than the last; I am perswaded, I shall not be charged with slandering the *Rebearsers*, if I say that he would have us understand him to mean,

That the Prince of *Orange*, as he then was, is to be charg'd with Ambition in aspiring to the Throne of his Father-in-Law, and Injustice in deposing him.

If I do him Personal Injury in this, I shall frankly ask his Pardon, if he publishes that he has no such Meaning, and this is more Justice than any of them will do me: But

Y<sup>e</sup> m<sup>o</sup>re, I do no Man Injustice, if I say, this is the Sence of the *Jacobite Party*, and is to be collected daily from their Works.

Now both these are so effectually answered already in Volumes of Discourses by the most learned Pens of this Age, that I cannot go about a Work so needless here, but this I shall think needful to say.

Both these things are taken up, and the Memory of the King clear'd by them in the publick Transactions of the People of *England*. First, As an injur'd People, who cry'd to the Prince as a Helper, when he could have no Design in his Thoughts, or could foresee any Probability of what follow'd: And Secondly, in his whole Proceeding after he came hither, in which the Flight of the King, and the sudden Fall of that whole Party could no more be foreseen than the Day of Judgment, nor could the wisest Man in the Nation have imagin'd so compleat a bloodless Victory, could have been obtain'd over so complicated, so long concerted, and so well supported a Tyranny; our Deliverance was like a Dream to us, and like a Clap of Thunder to our Enemies, and yet they will have it concerted before in the Ambition of the then Prince of *Orange*.

But this is an old Story, it is our Happiness that it is done, it is the Act of the whole Nation, Legally and Nationally constituted, and it is in vain for a wretched Party to throw this as a Vice upon the Memory of the King.

The whole World Honours Him for his Share in it; our present Flourishing Condition, as to Government, I mean both in Church and State, is built upon it, and no Man blames the King for that, but he that would from the same Principle Dethrone Her present Majesty, Dissolve the Constitution, repeal the Toleration, unravel the Union of *Britain*, blow up the Confederacy, restore the Prince of *Wales*, and receive *French* Tyranny; and in this I think I do no wrong, to tell the two Authors who joyn in reproaching the King's Memory,

One may see the Picture of his Party, and the End they drive at fairly exposed.

And the other may see whose Work he is doing, when he falls upon the Name of the Nations Deliverer.

I expect a Storm of Raillery from both, which I am fortifi'd against by the Justice of King *William's* Cause; for which I put a just Contempt upon all their Vile Unmannerly Treatment, and scorn to return any Answer to it — But this old and most true saying of Mr. *Dryden*,

*That Disputants when Reasons fail,*

*Have one sure Shift, and That's to Rail.*

I would only joyn one Request to Mr. *Observer* about his Reflection upon King *William*; that suppose it had been so, *which nevertheless I by no means grant*, what need was there for the Publication of it, of what Use, what Necessity, and who has it served or pleased, and let him but satisfy the World of this, I'll drop all the rest; and this I think he cannot avoid, as he would not be thought a secret Enemy, not to the King and his Friends only, but to the Revolution and Constitution which he pretends to Argue for — Sure he will not pretend to deny an Answer to this.

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††† She lives at the Golden-Ball in Hand Court, over against great Turnstile in Holborn.